

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007, a bill that would implement an assistance program to support economic and housing development in rural areas. This act would provide assistance to Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, State community or development agencies, local nonprofit organizations and community development corporations.

According to the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, in Texas alone, more than one million people have lived in public housing over the past 60 years. In Texas and throughout the country, the majority of families living in public housing have very low income and have no alternative to public housing.

My Congressional District is very rural, and housing in these very low-income communities remains a top concern. This act would allow sustainable low income housing and improve the economic standard of our working-class families in Texas.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting those in need of assistance by voting for this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, In 2006, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, in Niobrara, received a Rural Housing and Economic Development Innovative Support Grant award, to provide additional funding for a 40-unit subdivision in the Village of Santee.

Today, we will pass H.R. 1982, authorizing the Office of Housing and Urban Development to authorize the Rural Housing and Economic Development program to provide competitive grants to support housing and economic development in rural areas.

This program is the only exclusively rural housing program administered by HUD, and focuses on "high-risk" areas.

If rural areas of Nebraska are going to grow and prosper, we need strong, safe communities. H.R. 1982 is an investment in the future for struggling rural areas, and is a good step in the right direction.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE CORPORATION ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 408) recognizing and honoring the Cathedral Square Corporation on its 30th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 408

Whereas in 1977 the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, recognized the need to provide safe and affordable housing for its low-income seniors, organized the Cathedral Square Corporation, and began construction of a single project;

Whereas since that small beginning Cathedral Square Corporation has grown into one of the largest and most innovative nonprofit housing developers in Vermont;

Whereas the work of Cathedral Square Corporation has been groundbreaking, both literally and figuratively;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation has developed housing for persons with mental health challenges, and operates the housing in partnership with mental health agencies;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation has developed housing for younger adults with severe mobility impairments, and operates the housing in partnership with the Visiting Nurse Association;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation completed one of the first assisted living conversion projects in the country for very low-income seniors who otherwise would be in nursing homes;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation saved the historic Ruggles House, a property on the National Register of Historic Places, converting it to shared housing;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation developed an intergenerational community, serving the elderly, teenage parents, and parents returning to college;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation created Whitcomb Terrace, a housing development for persons of any age, income, or disability, which is a truly integrated, barrier-free community;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation recently completed construction of an innovative mixed-financing project, which is one of few such projects in the Nation and will be home to 63 senior households and 4 nonprofit organizations;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation currently manages housing for 837 seniors, 79 young adults with special needs, and 24 low-income children, and every property managed by the Corporation provides as many services as possible to enable independent living by the residents;

Whereas not only has Cathedral Square Corporation made possible 40 affordable housing communities throughout Vermont, but the Board of Directors and staff of the Corporation are always looking to the future, anticipating the housing and service needs of those Vermonters who otherwise would have few housing options; and

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation does not just build housing, they provide homes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the tremendous accomplishments and dedication of Cathedral Square Corporation, a Vermont nonprofit housing development organization, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself so much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 408. This resolution recognizes and honors the Cathedral Square Corporation on its 30th anniversary in September of this year.

The Cathedral Square Corporation is based in Burlington, Vermont, in the district of my esteemed colleague, PETER WELCH.

In 1977, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, recognized the need to provide safe and affordable housing for its low-income seniors. It organized the Cathedral Square Corporation and began construction of a single project. Since then, it has grown into one of the largest and most innovative nonprofit housing developers in Vermont.

The Cathedral Square Corporation has developed much needed housing for persons with mental health challenges, younger adults with severe mobility impairments, and completed one of the first assisted living conversion projects in the country for very low-income seniors who otherwise would be in nursing homes. In addition, the Cathedral Square Corporation has worked with the community to save the historic Ruggles House, a property on the National Register of Historic Places, converting it to shared housing.

This extremely important organization has worked to develop an intergenerational community, serving the elderly, teenage parents, and parents returning to college.

In total, Madam Speaker, the Cathedral Square Corporation currently manages housing for 837 seniors, 79 young adults with special needs, and 24 low-income children. And every property managed by the corporation provides as many services as possible to enable independent living by the residents.

Madam Speaker, not only has Cathedral Square Corporation made possible 40 affordable housing communities throughout Vermont, but the board of directors and staff of this corporation are always looking to the future, anticipating the housing and service needs of those Vermonters who otherwise would have few housing options.

The Cathedral Square Corporation doesn't just build housing, they provide homes and help create community. They are an outstanding example to all housing groups, and I applaud their innovation and their diligent work and service to the community.

I congratulate the Cathedral Square Corporation. And this resolution congratulates them on 30 years of distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 408 to honor Cathedral Square Corporation in respect to their 30 years of dedicated service to providing quality, affordable housing for seniors and individuals with special needs.

The United States must take care of its seniors and individual needs. I appreciate the work done by the Cathedral Square Corporation over the last 30 years to provide the most quality assistance to our seniors and special need individuals.

I thank and congratulate the CSC on reaching their 30th anniversary. And I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HODES. I thank the gentleman for his concurrence in this resolution.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 408.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 87) supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 87

Whereas 40,000 people in the United States, and 1,200,000 people globally, die in road crashes each year;

Whereas another 20,000,000 to 50,000,000 people globally are injured each year as a result of speeding motor vehicles, the increasing use of motor vehicles, and rapid urbanization;

Whereas the World Health Organization has predicted that by the year 2020 the annual number of deaths from motor vehicle crashes is likely to surpass the annual number of deaths from AIDS;

Whereas the current estimated cost of motor vehicle crashes worldwide is \$518,000,000,000 annually, representing between 3 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation;

Whereas over 90 percent of motorist-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization motorist-related deaths and costs continue to rise in these countries due to a lack of appropriate road engineering and injury prevention programs in public health sectors; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families, and called on nations globally to improve road safety: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 87, a bill that supports the goals and ideas for a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. H. Con. Res. 87, which has 54 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative ROBERT WEXLER on March 8, 2007. H. Con. Res. 87 was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 12, 2007 by a voice vote.

The third Sunday in November is designated as a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. This resolution commemorates the 1.2 million people killed in road crashes globally, including 40,000 in the United States each year.

Road crashes are the second leading cause of death worldwide among young people from ages 5 to 29, and the third leading cause of death among people aged 30 to 44 years. Vehicle accidents every year have injured and disabled as many as 50 million people throughout the world. Road traffic injuries cost countries approximately \$518 billion each year, which is between 1 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation.

I support this legislation to encourage the people of the United States and of the world to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance

for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs and other activities.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, ROBERT WEXLER, for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, every year approximately 40,000 people in the United States die in road crashes. The number worldwide is even more devastating, over 1.2 million. These tragedies are overwhelming to the victims and their families and lead to numerous unintended physical, emotional and financial hardships.

H. Con. Res. 87 supports a world day of remembrance for road crash victims on the third Saturday of every November. According to the World Health Organization, 90 percent of motorist-related deaths occur in low and middle income countries. The countries are in need of improved road systems, increased prevention initiatives, and education programs for new drivers.

Too many of these road crash fatalities can be prevented through legislation, consistent enforcement and better education on the use of safety precautions such as seatbelts, child restraints and helmets. Drunk driving prevention programs and campaigns such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving are useful tools to bring awareness to such tragedies.

Communities and families worldwide must work together to prevent road crashes and related deaths. These traffic accidents injure or disable more than 50 million people. It is time we take these numbers into perspective to end dangerous and life-threatening vehicle crashes.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 87.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, we will pass H. Con. Res. 87, supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

This legislation sets aside the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families, and calls on nations globally to improve road safety.

It also encourages our country to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

Each year 40,000 people in the U.S. die in road crashes—last year Nebraska had 226 fatal crashes, according to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety.

Very few of us can say we have never been affected by a road crash. It is my hope, through these educational and informative steps, we can lower the total of Americans—and Nebraskans—lost to road crashes each year.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back my time.